

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

***STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION***

***Carol A. Murray, Commissioner***

**For Immediate Release**

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**Contact:**

Bill Boynton  
Public Information Office  
(603) 271-6495

**ONE-WAY TOLLS TO RETURN TO I-95 HAMPTON TOLL PLAZA**  
**16-WEEK TRIAL WILL RUN FROM JUNE 30 TO OCTOBER 21**

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation announces the planned return to one-way tolls at the Hampton Toll Plaza on Interstate 95 will be effective at 12:01 AM on Wednesday, June 30, 2004. The 16-week one-way toll trial period during 2004 will run through October 21, 2004 and will be operated as it was during the 10-week test in 2003.

“The operation of one-way toll collection at the Hampton Tolls in the late summer and early fall of 2003 greatly reduced traffic backups at the plaza in both the northbound and southbound directions,” says NHDOT Commissioner Carol Murray. “The operation of one-way toll collection over a full season of peak traffic volumes will allow for a more complete evaluation of the impact of this experiment. With a longer time period, traffic monitoring can be extended to state and local roadways to evaluate traffic volumes and patterns over time and their effect on revenue.”

Beginning just after midnight on June 30, tolls at the Hampton mainline facility will be collected in the northbound direction only, with the toll rates for all vehicles doubled. All southbound traffic will travel toll-free through mainline plaza. Ramp toll rates to Hampton and NH Route 101 will remain unchanged. During peak traffic periods, northbound traffic will be able to utilize a maximum of 11 lanes, which will all be staffed by NHDOT toll attendants. Southbound traffic will utilize four lanes and will not be staffed.

The southbound speed limit through the plaza area will be reduced to 20 MPH. State Police will be providing increased enforcement activity due to the concern for safe passage through the four toll-free lanes in the toll plaza area. Southbound motorists are strongly encouraged to abide by the posted speed limit, as they continue to travel through the existing plaza. Signs, barrels, cones, Highway Advisory Radio and electronic message boards will be used to alert and assist motorists driving through the one-way toll alignment.

Current plans for implementing E-Z Pass electronic tolling on the New Hampshire Turnpike System call for the Hampton Tolls to be on line in the spring of 2005. In addition, efforts to improve traffic flow at the Hampton Ramp Toll include a project this summer, which will add an additional lane on the NH Route 101 bridge approaching the ramp and increase the number of permanent booths at the Ramp Toll Plaza from seven to eight.